

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-7, 9-13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Furukawa (U.S. 6,029,238). Claims 14, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furukawa (U.S. 6,029,238). Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furukawa (U.S. 6,029,238) in view of Ohnishi (U.S. 6,067,169). Claims 18, 19, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furukawa (U.S. 6,029,238) in view of Smilansky et al. (U.S. 5,339,176).

Solely to advance prosecution of particular embodiments of the invention, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 4, 9, 12, and 16 to recite embodiments of the invention that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the Examiner's cited art as listed above. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute broader embodiments in a continuing application.

Applicants note that the cited reference, Furukawa generally discloses a digital copier functioning as both copying machine and a printer. However, Applicants submit that Furukawa does not in any way teach or suggest technical aspects for responding to a plurality of requests from a plurality of devices simultaneously. For example, as described in col. 11, lines 41-43, col. 12, lines 6-8, col. 12, lines 35-37, and col. 13, lines 17-19, etc., the channel to the network in the Furukawa device is cut off after the end of the sending of the printer status, digital copier status, or the like. As such, one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the establishment of both a plurality of logical channels and normal communication has not been achieved. These

features are recited in the independent claims of the present application. The print system according to the present invention can respond to a plurality of requests from a plurality of devices simultaneously (e.g., reception of the print status can be done during the local copy) by adopting both a plurality of logical channels communication and normal communication, especially, at least one data flow between the host and the printer consisting of plurality of logical channels. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present invention distinguishes over the disclosure of Furukawa.

Further, with respect to claim 6, the Examiner asserts that Furukawa discloses a data flow regulation means for asynchronously regulating data flow between the host and the printer, data flow between the scanner and the host, and data flow between the scanner and the printer. The Examiner cites to col. 18, line 59 through col. 19, line 57 as allegedly teaching this claimed feature. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position. In particular, Furukawa does not disclose that data flow regulation occurs asynchronously. As such, claim 6 is allowable for its dependency as well as this feature.

Regarding independent claim 13, the Examiner asserts that Furukawa discloses a second interpretation section that interprets a command issued from the host to the printer, and predetermined necessary operation is executed instead of the printer in response to an interpretation result. The Examiner cites to col. 9, lines 3-13 in support. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position.

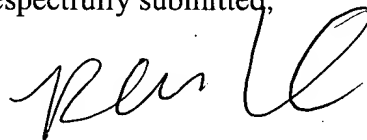
In particular, Applicants submit that Furukawa discloses that a predetermined necessary operation is executed instead of the printer. That is, Furukawa does not disclose any type of operation that takes precedence over any other type of operation.

Regarding claim 15, Applicants also disagree with the Examiner's position. For similar reasons to those discussed with respect to claim 13 above, Applicants submit that Furukawa does not disclose that if a command is determined to be a status request from the host as the interpretation result of the second interpretation section, that the predetermined necessary operation is to read the status from the printer and transmit the read status to the host as a packet.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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